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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/056,243	01/23/2002	Josef Fehrenbach	40124/00101	7806

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EXAMINER

TAKAOKA, DEAN O

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2817

DATE MAILED: 06/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/056,243

Applicant(s)

FEHRENBACH ET AL.

Examiner

Dean O Takaoka

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 29-56 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 29,31,32,36,38-40,44,46-48,53,55 and 56 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 30,33-35,37,41-43,45,49-52 and 54 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5,7.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 29, 31, 32, 36, 38, 39, 44, 46, 47, 53, 55, and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Burger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,146,196).

Claims 29, 36, 44, 53, 55, and 56:

Burger et al. (Fig. 2, et al.) shows a coaxial line plug-in connection for connecting a first end of a first coaxial line (22) and a second end of a second coaxial line (22'), where each of the first and second coaxial lines has an inner conductor (50) and an outer conductor (54) and wherein the outer conductors surround the inner conductors, the coaxial line plug-in connection comprising: a socket (38); a plug (48); and a separating element (36, 46); where the separating element is of a dielectric material for galvanically separating at least the outer conductors of the first and second coaxial lines (inherent where dielectric insulators 36, 46 surround the central conductors 50 and space apart the outer conductors thus inherently providing galvanic isolation); and where the socket and the plug couple the first end and the second ends (best illustrated in Fig. 9) for transmitting signals of a wavelength λ (inherent, where Burger et al. teaches impedance matching, reflections, and low-level signals, col. 4, lines 16-37, thus the signals being AC signals which are inherently defined by wavelength) between the

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first and second coaxial lines; a plug comprised of an outer conductor (54) and an inner conductor (50) protruding beyond the outer conductor (see Fig. 5).

It is the position of the Examiner that the term "microwave signals" is a mere statement of intended use. The wavelength of any AC signal such as the signal of Burger et al. may be defined by λ , further in that the "microwave signal" is not explicitly shown nor the use limited to that of microwave signals, thus the Examiner considers the term a mere statement of intended use and does not give any patentable weight to the term "microwave signals".

Claims 31, 38, and 46:

Where the separating element (36) is arranged in a socket (38).

Claims 32, 39, and 47:

Where the separating element consists of PTFE (col.4, lines 20-22).

Claims 29, 31, 36, 38, 40, 44, 46, 48, 53, 55, and 56 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ziegler, Jr. (U.S. Patent No. 3,245,027).

Claims 29, 36, 44, 53, 55, and 56:

Ziegler, Jr. (Fig. 2, et al.) shows a coaxial line plug-in connection for connecting a first end of a first coaxial line (10) and a second end of a second coaxial line (10), where each of the first and second coaxial lines has an inner conductor (14) and an outer conductor (12) and wherein the outer conductors surround the inner conductors, the coaxial line plug-in connection comprising: a socket (20); a plug (80); and a separating element (56); where the separating element is of a dielectric material for galvanically

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separating at least the outer conductors of the first and second coaxial lines (inherent where dielectric insulator 56 surrounds the central conductors 14 and space apart the outer conductors 12 thus inherently providing galvanic isolation); and where the socket and the plug couple the first end and the second ends (shown in Fig. 2) for transmitting signals of a wavelength λ (inherent, where Ziegler, Jr. teaches low-frequency AC signals, col. 1, lines 10-20, thus AC signals inherently defined by wavelength) between the first and second coaxial lines; a plug comprised of an outer conductor (12) and an inner conductor (14) protruding beyond the outer conductor (see Fig. 3).

It is the position of the Examiner that the term "microwave signals" is a mere statement of intended use. The wavelength of any AC signal such as the signal of Ziegler, Jr. may be defined by λ , further in that the "microwave signal" is not explicitly shown nor the use limited to that of microwave signals, thus the Examiner considers the term a mere statement of intended use and does not give any patentable weight to the term "microwave signals".

Claims 31, 38, and 46:

Where the separating element (56) is arranged in a socket (80).

Claims 40 and 48:

A fastening flange (82) attached to the plug where an inserted state of the socket is ensured by means of the fastening flange attached to the plug (see Fig. 3).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 30, 33 – 35, 37, 41 – 43, 45, 49 – 52, and 54 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in

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independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

With respect to claims 30, 37, and 45, Burger et al. does not show the radially exterior lateral wall face and radially interior lateral wall face spaced apart by the separating element, with claims 33 – 35, 41 – 43, and 49 – 52 dependent from 30, 37, and 45 respectively.

With respect to claim 54, Burger et al. does not show the socket direct attached to a waveguide.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Schumacher – shows a coaxial contact.

De Boer – shows a galvanic isolator.

Bogner et al. – shows a choke coupled coax connector.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dean O Takaoka whose telephone number is (703) 305-6242. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30a - 5:00p Mon - Fri.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Robert Pascal can be reached on (703) 308-4909. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703) 872-9319 for After Final communications.

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Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

dot
June 4, 2003

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robert Pascal', with a large, sweeping horizontal stroke at the end.

Robert Pascal
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2